

In The Claims

Claims 1-16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (previously presented) A clear intumescent interlayer produced from a clear stable aqueous solution comprising an alkali metal silicate waterglass, a water soluble aluminate and a hydroxy carboxylic acid, wherein the interlayer comprises from 10 to 35% by weight of water.

Claim 18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (previously presented) An interlayer according to claim 17 comprising from 0.1 to 5.0% by weight of aluminium.

Claim 20 (previously presented) An interlayer according to claim 17 wherein the interlayer has a thickness of from 0.5 to 2.0 mm.

Claim 21 (previously presented) A glass sheet having an interlayer according to claim 17 on one surface thereof.

Claim 22 (previously presented) A laminated glazing which comprises one or more interlayers according to claim 17 and two or more sheets of glass.

Claim 23-27 (cancelled)

Claim 28 (previously presented) An interlayer according to claim 17 wherein the water soluble aluminate used in the production thereof is an alkali metal aluminate.

Claim 29 (previously presented) An interlayer according to claim 17 wherein the water soluble aluminate used in the production thereof is a sodium aluminate.

Claim 30 (previously presented) An interlayer according to claim 17 wherein the hydroxycarboxylic acid is an α -hydroxy carboxylic acid.

Claim 31 (previously presented) An interlayer according to claim 30 wherein the hydroxycarboxylic acid used in the production thereof is selected from the group comprising tartaric acid, malic acid, gluconic acid, lactic acid, saccharic acid and citric acid.

Claim 32 (previously presented) An interlayer according to claim 31 wherein the hydroxycarboxylic acid used in the production thereof is citric acid.

Claim 33 (previously presented) An interlayer according to claim 17 wherein the alkali metal silicate waterglass used in the production thereof having has a weight ratio $\text{SiO}_2:\text{M}_2\text{O}$ of from 2.0:1 to 4.0:1 where M represents an alkali metal cation.

Claim 34 (previously presented) An interlayer according to claim 33 wherein the alkali metal silicate waterglass used in the production thereof comprises a sodium silicate waterglass which has a weight ratio $\text{SiO}_2:\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ of from 2.5:1 to 3.0:1.

Claim 35 (previously presented) An interlayer according to claim 33 wherein the alkali metal silicate waterglass used in the production thereof comprises a potassium silicate waterglass

Claim 36 (previously presented) An interlayer according to claim 35 wherein the potassium silicate used in the production thereof has a weight ratio $\text{SiO}_2:\text{K}_2\text{O}$ of from 1.43:1 to 2.05:1.

Claim 37 (previously presented) An interlayer according to claim 35 wherein, within the clear aqueous solution used in the production thereof, the molar ratio of sodium ions to potassium ions is at least 2:1.

Claim 38 (previously presented) An interlayer according to claim 17 wherein, within the clear aqueous solution used in the production thereof, the molar ratio of silicon to aluminum is in the range 20:1 to 35:1.

Claim 39 (previously presented) An interlayer according to claim 38 wherein, within the clear aqueous solution used in the production thereof, the molar ratio of silicon to aluminum is in the range 25:1 to 32:1.

Claim 40 (previously presented) An interlayer according to claim 17 wherein, within the clear aqueous solution used in the production thereof, the weight ratio of silica to alkali metal oxide is in the range 2:1 to 4:1.

Claim 41 (previously presented) An interlayer according to claim 17 wherein the clear aqueous solution used in the production thereof further comprises a polyhydric compound.

Claim 42 (previously presented) An interlayer according to claim 41 wherein the polyhydric compound used in the production thereof is glycerol.

Claim 43 (new) An interlayer according to claim 17, wherein the aluminate has been partially neutralized with a hydroxy carboxylic acid prior to mixing with the silicate waterglass